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Dated: August 27, 2004

Signature:

(Lisa J. Michaud)

Docket No.: 101896-246 (DEP-5176)
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Stephen Ritland
Application No.: 10/060,905
Filing Date : January 29, 2002
Title : RETRACTOR AND METHOD FOR SPINAL
PEDICLE SCREW

Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Cary E. O'Connor

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

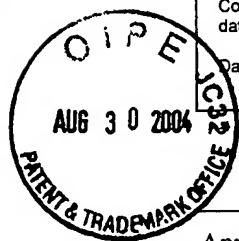
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 and enclosed herewith. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Please note that the following citations are commonly-owned applications on related inventions, the prosecution of which may be relevant to the pending application:

- U.S. Patent No. 6,159,179 entitled "Cannula and Sizing Insertion Method" (previously cited in an IDS filed on August 13, 2004)
- U.S. Publication No. 2003-0083689 entitled "Non Cannulated Dilators" (previously cited in an IDS filed on August 13, 2004)
- U.S. Publication No. 2003-0083688 entitled "Configured and Sized Cannula (enclosed herewith)
- U.S. Publication No. 2003-0187431 entitled "Apparatus and Method for Targeting Surgical Procedures) (enclosed herewith)
- U.S. Patent Application No. 10/165,991 entitled "Non-Cannulated Dilators" (this application is a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,159,179, cited in an IDS filed on August 13, 2004, thus a copy of the application is not enclosed)
- U.S. Patent Application No. 10/899,707 of Simonson entitled "Non Cannulated Dilators" (this application is a divisional of U.S. Publication No. 2003-0083689, cited in an IDS filed on August 13, 2004, thus a copy of the application is not enclosed)



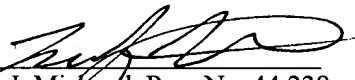
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee is believed to be due. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 101896-246.

Dated: August 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Lisa J. Michaud, Reg. No. 44,238
Attorney for Applicant

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP
World Trade Center West
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604
Tel.: (617) 439-2550
Fax: (617) 310-9550

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/060,905
				Filing Date	January 29, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Stephen Ritland
				Art Unit	3732
				Examiner Name	C. E. O'Connor
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	101896-246 (DEP-5176)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		**US Appl. 10/165,991	6-10-2002 (filing date)	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	** (this application is a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,159,179, previously submitted; copy of reissue application is not enclosed)
		**US Appl. 10/899,707	7-26-2004 (filing date)	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	** (this application is a divisional of U.S. Publ. No. 2003/0083689, previously submitted; copy of divisional application is not enclosed)
		US 2003/0083688	05-01-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	
		US 2003/0187431	10-02-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		
		Sofamor Danek, "MED MicroEndoscopic Discectomy System" (1997)		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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